

F-1-189

John P. Graff Farmstead; "Clifton on the Monocacy"

1889-ca. 1945

Buckeystown vicinity

Private

The John P. Graff Farmstead centers on a circa 1889-1890 brick dwelling with a perpendicular rear wing and a 1940's two-story addition on the north side and its outbuildings, which range in date from 1889 to about 1940-45 and include a frame two-story summer kitchen, a wagon shed/corn crib, a frame bank barn of 1889, a tenant house of about 1890, a garage and a possible machine shed of the early 20th century, and a concrete block dairy barn and milk house of about 1940. The farmstead is moderately significant for the architecture of the main dwelling, which is basically a vernacular house with origins in the German tradition on which Queen Anne style shingled gables have been added. The number and variety of outbuildings gives a fair illustration of the life of a farm in the late 19th and early 20th century. The earlier history of the Clifton tract, with a house which burned prior to 1889, includes much dramatic activity involving the James L. Davis family, the previous owners of the property from the mid-18th century, and their avid support of the Confederate army in its movements through the Buckeystown area. James L. Davis was also one of the directors of the Buckeystown Pike Company. John P. Graff, the owner from 1889 to 1919 and the builder of the present house, was, by historical accounts of 1910, an industrious farmer who built most of the main agricultural outbuildings in the complex.

F-1-189

John P. Graff Farmstead

Buckeystown

Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Modern Period, A.D. 1930 - Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Agriculture

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function & Use

Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Domestic/secondary structure/garage

Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility/barn

Agriculture/Subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John P. Graff Farmstead

and/or common Clifton on the Monocacy (preferred) G. Leicester Thomas, Jr., Farm

2. Location

street & number 4007 Buckeystown Pike ☐ not for publicationcity, town Buckeystown ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Virginia B. Thomas et al, trustees

street & number 4007 Buckeystown Pike telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code MD 21701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1046

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 839

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-1-189

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			C. 1945

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 8

The John P. Graff Farmstead, or "Clifton on the Monocacy", is an agricultural-residential complex centered on a circa 1889 brick dwelling with a two-story 1940's addition on the north side and the associated frame domestic and agricultural outbuildings dating from about 1890 to the mid-1940's, including a frame tenant house moved from a more distant location on the farm to its present location just northeast of the principal dwelling. The other outbuildings are a frame summer kitchen, a garage, a wagon shed/corn crib, a small shed of undetermined use, a frame and stone bank barn, and a concrete block and frame dairy barn and milk house. The farmstead is located on the east side of Buckeystown Pike (Md. 85) about 1/4 mile south of Lime Kiln and about 1/2 mile north of Buckeystown, Frederick County, Maryland. The main elevation of the house faces west toward the road across a lawn with large trees screening the facade. Dates for the structures are based on historical accounts, land records, a personal interview with Mrs. Virginia Thomas, one of the current owners, and architectural details.

The main dwelling has an irregular number of bays on the west elevation, with three bays on the first story and four on the second story. A central cross gable with a shingled face and a round-arched 2/2 window breaks the hipped roof of slate. Shingled gables also are on the north and south roof slopes, the north gable being visible above the 1940's addition on that side. Four chimneys are located near the central ridge of the roof. One near the northwest corner has been raised in height. The brick walls are 7:1 American bond. A one-story porch extends across the west elevation, with square paneled piers. The window and door openings have segmental arches. The sash is 2/2 with louvred shutters. The doorway has a transom and sidelights. Fluted columns flank the doorway. The south elevation has a staggered window pattern, reflecting the location of the interior stairway. A two-story rear wing extends from the northeast corner. It has a two-story open porch on the south side, the upper level of which is enclosed with screens. A scroll-sawn balustrade is visible through the screens. The interior of the house retains much of the original stained wood trim at the stairway, door, and window frames. The kitchen has a painted wall mural by a German prisoner of war who was on farm labor detail at Clifton during the period about 1943-1945. The artist re-visited the Thomases after the war accompanied by his family and remained friends for many years thereafter.

Outbuildings:

Summer kitchen: The frame summer kitchen was probably built about 1889 along with the main house. It is a two-story structure located southeast of the rear wing. The exterior is covered with german siding and the roof with corrugated metal. A center chimney rises above the roof. The north elevation has a paneled door and a 3/1 window on the second level. The east and west elevations have two bays with 3/1 sash. A one-story shed addition is on the south elevation. According to Mrs. Thomas, the summer kitchen was used as living quarters by farm laborers and occasionally by the German POW's detailed to Clifton for farm work.

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No.

F-1-189

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1889 - C. 1940 **Builder/Architect**check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The John P. Graff Farmstead, or "Clifton on the Monocacy" is moderately significant in architecture for the vernacular style of the main dwelling, incorporating some Queen Anne elements such as the shingled gables, in a basically traditional German style house with a perpendicular rear wing. It is also of minor significance for the variety of the remaining outbuildings, which show the functional grouping of buildings within the late 19th century agricultural complex. The house and most of the outbuildings were built by John P. Graff (born 1849), whose biographical sketch in Williams & McKinsey's History of Frederick County (1910) says that he was an industrious farmer on the property from 1889 to 1909, when he retired to Buckeystown.

The history of the farm prior to Graff's purchase is linked to that of Mount Hope (F-1-68). Both tracts were part of the Davis family property, established in about 1731. James L. Davis, a later descendant, purchased the section which became Clifton and built a house apparently on or near the site of the Graff house. That house was apparently the scene of much activity during the Civil War, the Davises being strong Southern sympathizers who supported the Confederate troops with food, shelter, and concealment when necessary, as both Union and Rebel armies passed through the area. Grove's History of Carrollton Manor (1928) relates stories of the arrest of a female Southern spy at Clifton and blockade running by a Dr. Slaughter, taking medicine to the Southern troops along the Buckeystown Pike. According to Grove, James L. Davis was one of the most active supporters of the Buckeystown Pike Company, becoming one of the original directors.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-1-189

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858

Grove, William J. History of Carrollton Manor. Frederick: Marken & Bielfeld, 1928
p. 148-149

Land Records of Frederick County

(Continued on separate sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10 acresQuadrangle name Buckeystown, Md.-Va.Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

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D

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 10 acres centered on the main dwelling on Tax Map 95, Parcel 151

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept date July 1993

street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958

city or town Frederick state MD. 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

7.1 Description (Continued)

Garage: The frame garage was probably built about 1920, according to Mrs. Thomas. The garage is located just north of the entrance drive which skirts the north side of the main dwelling, continuing to the northeast to the agricultural group and the tenant house. The garage has tongue-and-groove siding and a corrugated metal gable roof. Sliding doors open on the south elevation.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed with corn cribs was built about 1890 and has vertical siding and a standing seam metal roof. The east and west sides of the shed have horizontal siding. On the east elevation is an open-sided shed facing east, probably an addition of the early 20th century. The wagon shed is located east of the main house at right angles to the bank barn ramp.

Shed: The small square frame shed of undetermined use is located between the wagon shed and the bank barn. It has vertical siding and a corrugated metal shed roof with a single vertical board door on the west. Its location suggests that it was a pump house or mechanical shed, with a function related to the farm machines parked in the shed attached to the wagon shed.

Bank barn: The frame bank barn was also built about 1890, with vertical siding and louvred vents with scroll-sawn frames. The exterior is painted white. The roof is corrugated metal. The stall level is partially enclosed on the east side.

Dairy barn and milk house: The dairy barn and milk house are rusticated concrete block. The milk house has a hipped standing seam metal roof, with 6/6 windows and tongue-and-groove doors. The quoins are slightly lighter in color than the rest of the concrete blocks. The dairy barn has a standing seam metal gambrel roof. On the east end is an extension of plain concrete block, an alteration of the early 1950's. Two non-contributing concrete silos are located north of the barn. The date of the barn and the milk house is probably the early 1940's, but this could not be confirmed by Mrs. Thomas.

Tenant house: The tenant house is a two-story frame building with vinyl siding, 2/2 sash, and a standing seam metal roof. A two-story shed addition is on the east side of the house. The west elevation has three bays on the first story under a one-story porch and two bays on the second. The house was moved from a more distant site northeast of the main grouping in about 1945. It was probably originally built about 1889-1890.

John P. Graff Farmstead
Frederick County

SURVEY No. F-1-189

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Thomas, Mrs. G.L., Jr., personal interview, June 29, 1993

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County (1910).
Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, 1411-1412

4007 Buckeystown Pike

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
1046/839 13 Apr 78	Virginia B. Thomas, George L. Thomas III & Charles B. Thomas, trustees	George L. Thomas per Jt. of estate of G. L. Thomas, Jr. trustees	P. 1: "Mount Hope" excepting 147A. P. 2: 3.001A. P. 3: 15A. "Rose Star Nothing" - Sugarloaf Mtn		
867/195 27 Dec 71	George Leicester Thomas, Jr.	Mary E. Storm assignee in Equity 23,468		\$87,000	
436/114 2 Jul 42	G. Leicester Thomas, Jr.	Alexander & Harriet McCuskey			
433/473 17 Mar 42	Alexander E. & Harriett P. McCuskey	Isabelle McCuskey Cline & Casper E. Cline, Jr.			
433/472 17 Mar 42	Isabelle McCuskey Cline et ux	Alexander E. McCuskey et ux			
346/568 3 Mar 24	Alexander E. McCuskey & Isaac A. Wise	J. Dean Zeiler & Myra B. Zeiler	147A., 3R. 13sq. p.		372/600 - Wise to McCuskey
326/582 27 Mar 19	J. Dean Zeiler et ux	John P. & Clara A. Graff			
WIP 9/461 24 Aug 1889	John P. & Clara A. Graff	Joseph D. Baker		\$14,000	
WIP 9/418 12 Aug 1889	Joseph D. Baker	Ann M. Young, et al	deed of conveyance 5th parcel: 147A., 3R. 13sq. p.		
AF 9/167 9 Apr 1884	Louis McMurry	F. Hannille Thomas & Lynn Davis & Wm. P. Maulsby, trustees in Equity 4930			

4007 Buckeystown Pike p. 2

Lot Size, Description,
Other Information,
Original Tracts

Liber/Folio

Grantee

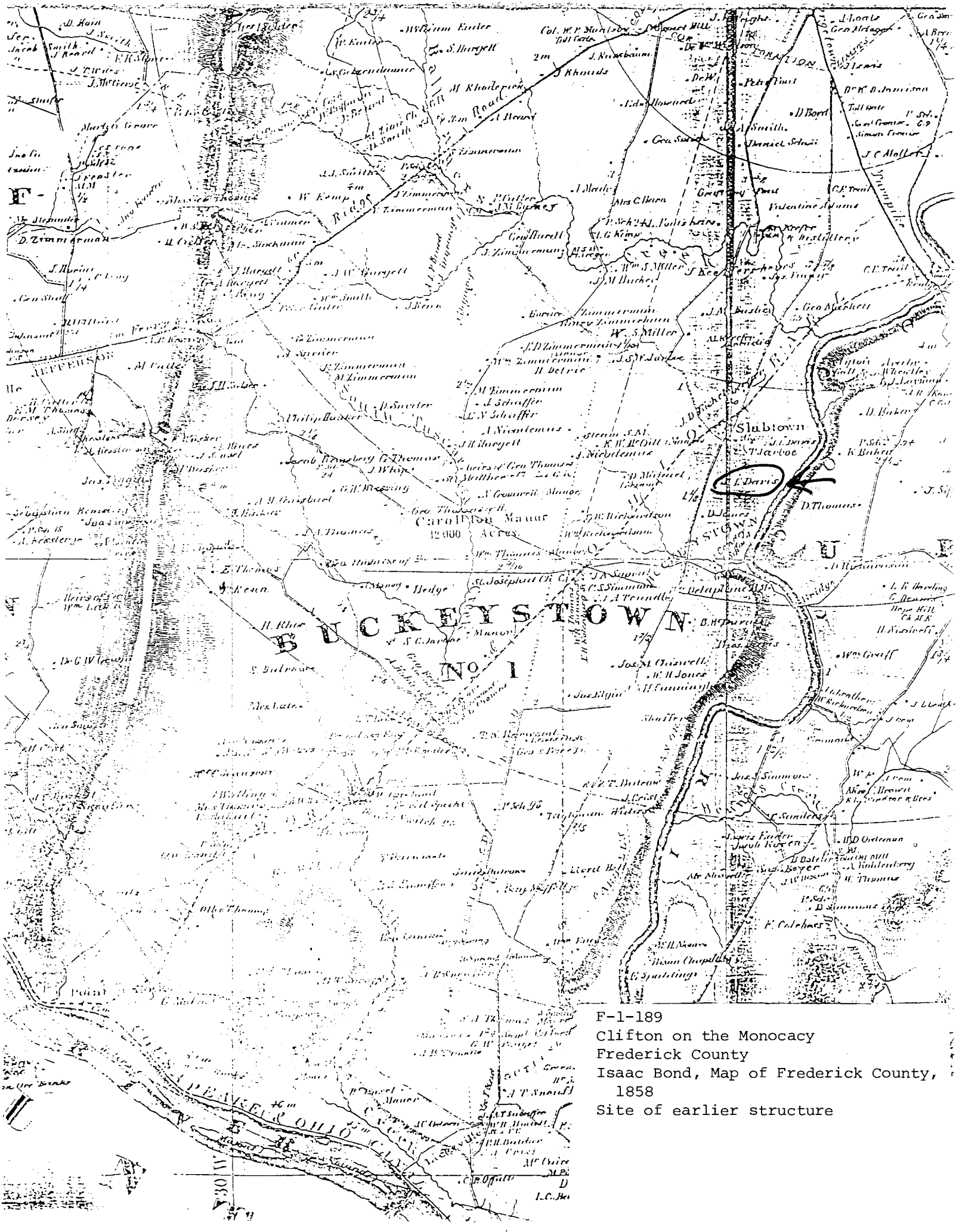
Grantor

Cost

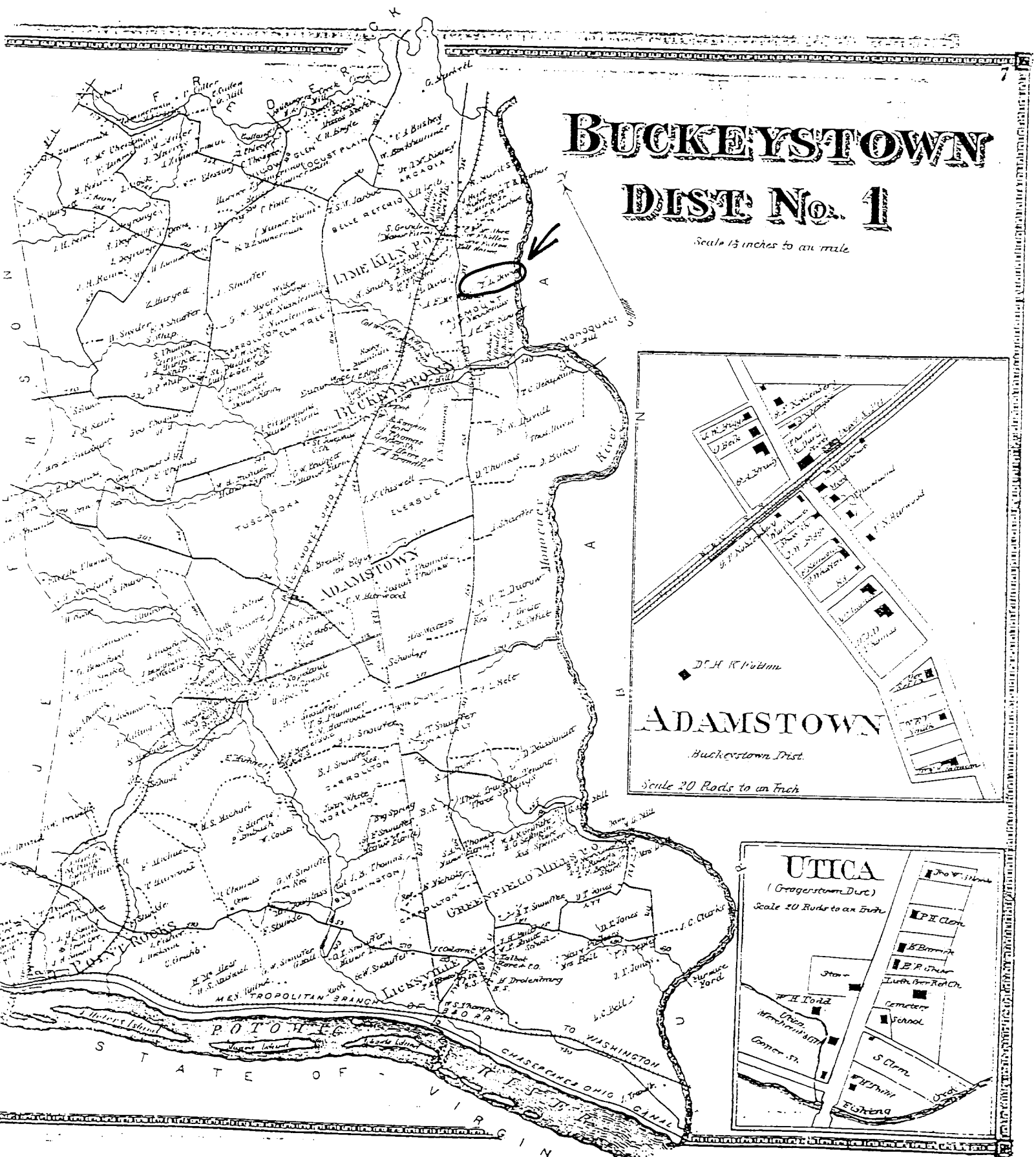
Miscellaneous

[illegible]

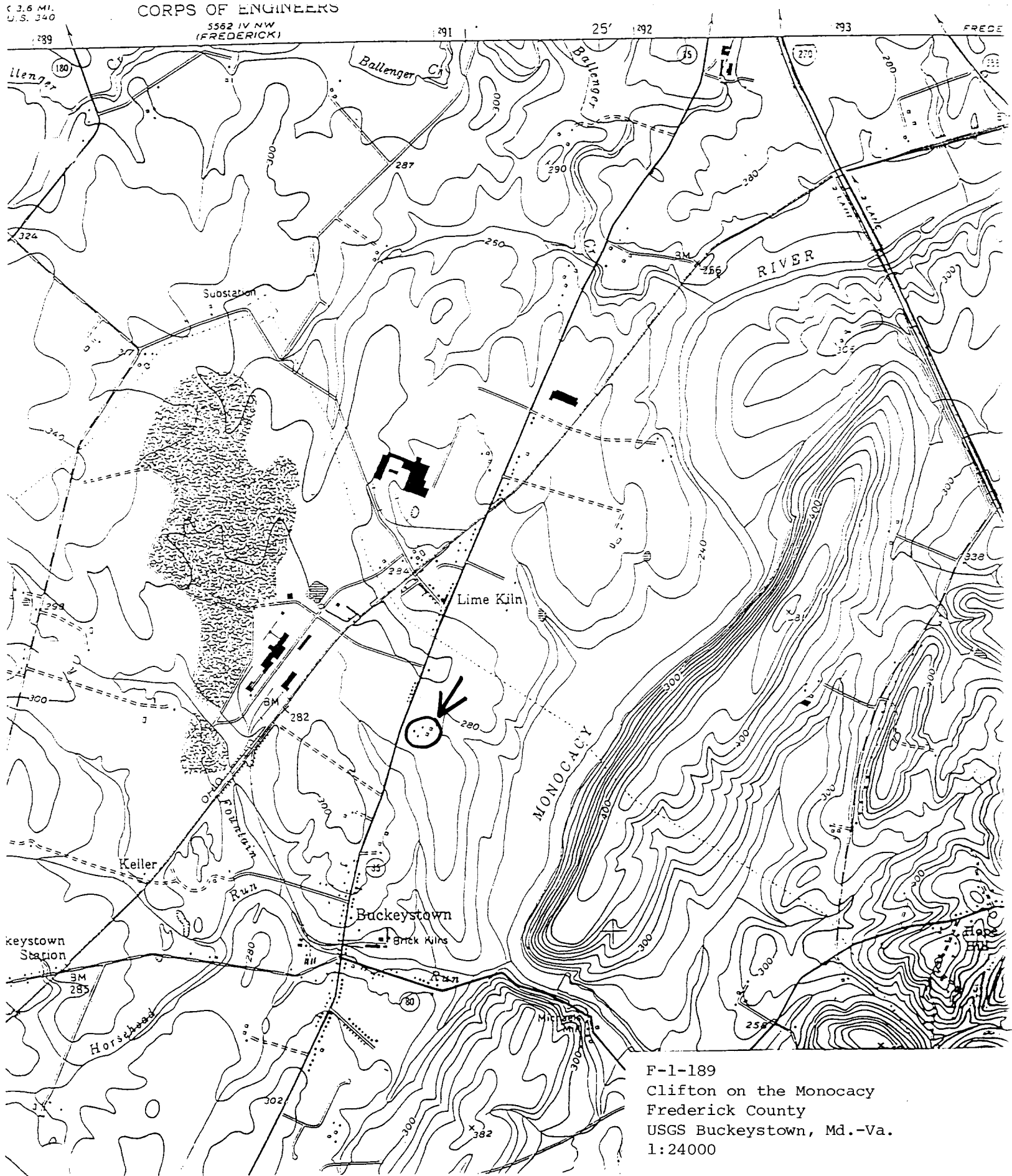
K-1-189



F-1-189
Clifton on the Monocacy
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County,
1858
Site of earlier structure



F-1-189
Clifton on the Monocacy
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873
Site of earlier structure





F-1-189

John P. Graft Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md

West elevation

1/7



F-1-189

John P. Graft Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville Md.

South elevation

2/7



F. 1-189

John P. Graft Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville Md.

Summer Kitchen, Southeast corner view

3/7



F-1-189

John P. Groat Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Wagon shed/corn crib south elevation

4/7



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John P. Groff Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Bank barn, west elevation

5/7



F-1-189

John P. Groat Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Dairy barn & milk house, view from west

6/7



F-1-189

John P. Graft Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Tenant house, west elevation

7/7